

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS NOVEMBER FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH
Reminds Family Caregivers About North Carolina Rx Senior Prescription Drug Plan

RALEIGH - Gov. Easley has proclaimed November Family Caregiver Month to acknowledge and support family, friends and neighbors who help take care of citizens in need. He also reminded family caregivers about the state's new prescription drug assistance program for low-income seniors, *North Carolina Rx*.

"Family caregivers are the backbone of North Carolina's long-term care system," said Easley. "Many of these seniors may be eligible for help paying for prescription medications through *North Carolina Rx* and caregivers can help them sign up for this program."

The N.C. Family Caregiver Support Program estimates that families provide at least 80 percent of all long-term care. Some 1.7 million adults in North Carolina are caring for an older person, which is more than 28 percent of the state's adult population. The number of people 70 and older who need assistance with daily activities is expected to grow substantially in the next decade as baby boomers enter their retirement years.

For seniors who need help obtaining and paying for vital prescriptions, *North Carolina Rx* is providing special assistance to help them get the medications they need to stay healthy. A special toll-free information line, 1-888-488-NCRX (6279) has trained assistants to help seniors with important information and sign up for the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan that best suits their needs and income level. In addition, a special web site, www.ncrx.gov offers information and important links to other helpful resources.

Through the Health and Wellness Trust Fund, \$24 million is available to be used to pay some or all of Medicare Part D premiums so qualifying low-income seniors can take advantage of the federal prescription drug program. Information on the N.C. Family Support Caregiver Support Program is available at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fcaregr/fchome.htm>.

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